

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 MAY 1987

Israel

A Labor Party communique called on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to resign because he is "unfit" to remain in office and is blocking one of the rare chances in Israel's history to make peace, Jerusalem radio reported. The sharply worded statement followed the conclusion of the 13 May Inner Cabinet session, which ended without a vote on any proposal. Shamir and other Likud ministers said after the meeting that since Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' proposal had not been approved, none of the ministers has henceforth any right to promote it on behalf of the Israeli Government, according to IDF radio.

IDF radio also broadcast remarks by Peres, who said he did not officially raise his proposal in the Inner Cabinet because "the outcome was known in advance and there was no sense in driving ourselves into an impossible and futile technical position." The Labor leader said the Likud's attempt to do away with his proposal means the end of the peace process and is therefore a violation of one of the most important basic guidelines of the coalition government. The right solution to the split in the government is to ask the people to decide, he affirmed. In related remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Peres confirmed that he will seek a Knesset majority for early elections and signalled his intention to continue promoting the peace process "because there is no decision to bar me from it." The radio disclosed that Peres has shortened his U.S. tour in view of the internal crisis, noting that he will leave for Washington 14 May and will return 18 May.

Prior to the cabinet session, Shamir had criticized Peres in a speech of "unprecedented toughness," Jerusalem radio reported, noting that he accused Peres of misleading the public over the conditions for an international conference in order to bring about elections for personal and party interests. According to a source in Shamir's office cited by *The Jerusalem Post*, the prime minister was "incensed" by the leak of a message from Secretary of State George Shultz favoring Peres' proposal for an international conference. In another development, *Yedi'ot Aharonot* reported that one of Peres' advisers discussed the international conference issue in a "secret" meeting with Soviet officials in Geneva last weekend.

Inter-arab Affairs

Jordanian-Egyptian Summit — Talks in Cairo between President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn focused on efforts to gain maximum support for holding an international Middle East peace conference and on ways to end the Iran-Iraq war, Egyptian official Usamah al-Baz disclosed in remarks cited by MENA. He said the king's 12 May visit was part of the continuing contacts between Jordan and Egypt aimed at coordinating stands and bolstering cooperation. On the international conference issue, Al-Baz said that Jordan and Egypt are trying to reach an overall Arab consensus, and he added that all Arab countries

bordering Israel should understand the need to exploit the present atmosphere, which is "more favorable than before" in regard to convening a conference. As for the powers of such a conference, Al-baz stressed that it "cannot impose solutions" on the participants, and he added that the time has come for the Arabs to "abandon the illusion that a solution can be imposed." No international forum can impose a solution in the absence of agreement between the parties who are directly concerned, he said, and the outcome of the conference will depend on each party's satisfaction and commitment to implement the pledges it undertakes.

An Amman television report on the Husayn-Mubarak summit likewise linked the talks with Husayn's continuing efforts to achieve a unified Arab stand on efforts to convene an international conference. In another development on the conference issue, Jordan's information minister categorically denied *The New York Times* report that his country has pledged to "limit" the USSR's role in the proposed peace conference, Amman radio noted. Speaking to a *REUTER* correspondent, he said the Soviet Union must fully participate in the conference along with all the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Arab Summit — "All" the Arab countries have agreed to convene the 13th Arab summit conference in Riyadh at the beginning of September, a senior Arab League official announced in a press statement cited by WAKH 13 May. Speaking to the UAE's *Al-Khalij*, the official added that relations between Syria and the PLO are the only outstanding obstacle to such a summit, and he predicted that this will be overcome by the mediation efforts of the USSR, Algeria, and Libya.

Iraq-Libya Talks — A 10 May report by the UAE's *Al-Ittihad* stated that Iraq and Libya have begun contacts aimed at restoring diplomatic relations.

Iranian-Syrian Consultations

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' visited Tehran for high-level discussions on bilateral relations and regional issues, Tehran radio reported. In addition to delivering a message to Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i from his Syrian counterpart, Hafiz al-Asad, Faruq al-Shar' relayed Al-Asad's assurance that the efforts of their mutual enemies will not affect the "friendly and fraternal" bilateral relations. Khamene'i praised Syrian "steadfastness" and condemned the "conspiracy" to extend the Camp David accords.

Responding to the foreign minister's briefing on the Syrian president's recent visit to Moscow, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared that Soviet support for Iraq is the "most important problem" in Iran-USSR relations. The downfall of the Iraqi regime will solve certain problems for Syria and Lebanon, Rafsanjani asserted, adding that if Iran, Syria, Leba-

non, and Iraq "are together," the issue of Palestine can be resolved.

In a predeparture statement, Al-Shar' termed the visit "successful and positive," Tehran radio noted, and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stressed the two countries' hope that the "expanding trend" in bilateral relations will continue.

Gulf Affairs

War Reports — Iraqi air strikes 13 May damaged "industrial units" in Esfahan and Tabriz, IRNA reported, adding that several people were wounded. The agency also announced that, during a "blitz attack," the Iranian Army "smashed" a commando battalion stationed near Fakeh on the southern front.

Intimidation Charge — The 11 May explosion at a Kuwait City office was the latest in a series of attacks coinciding with the superpowers' efforts to gain a "military foothold" in the region, according to an *Al-Qabas* editorial cited by KUNA. The paper speculated that the "perpetrators" and "those marketing protection plans" work for the "same employer."

Lebanon

A Syrian soldier was killed and two others were wounded by a car bomb explosion in West Beirut 13 May, Beirut radio announced. A Syrian military official told AFP that the blast was

aimed at a Syrian general who had passed the booby-trapped car moments earlier on his morning jog.

On the political level, Lebanese sources in Damascus cited by QNA said the recent Syrian-Lebanese talks resulted in an agreement to "freeze" Prime Minister Rashid Karami's resignation pending consultations aimed at removing the reasons that led to it. President Amin al-Jumayyil's envoys reportedly proposed that Karami be asked to form an expanded government with representatives of all parties and movements, including religious leaders.

Libya-Chad

The Chadian ambassador to Paris dismissed JANA's claim that Libyan troops have handed over positions in northern Chad to Goukouni Oueddei's forces, AFP reported. He viewed JANA's announcement as a "trick" aimed at camouflaging the Libyan occupation of the Tibesti region.

Pakistan-DRA Relations

The Afghan charge was summoned to receive a "strong protest" over two "unprovoked" air attacks on Pakistani territory 4 and 5 May, Karachi radio reported. Two people were killed and six wounded when Afghan aircraft carried out separate bombing raids on north Waziristan and the Arandu area of Chitral District.

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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Hekmatyar Cited on Formation of Interim Government
BK111551 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1457 GMT
11 May 87

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, May 11 (OANA-BERNAMA) — The Afghan mujahidin are to form an interim government which will take over immediately after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, which had been occupied since 1979. This and other steps which the mujahidin are planning for their country were outlined by their leader, Golboddin Hekmatyar before a large gathering of mujahidin in Peshawar last Thursday [7 May].

Manggal Hussein [spelling as received] of the regional office of the Afghan mujahidin in a meeting recently [words indistinct] this at a news conference here Monday.

He said Golboddin also told the gathering that elections would also be held to elect representatives to a legislative body called the Shura.

Other proposals which were agreed to by the leaders of the seven groups of mujahidin in a meeting recently, were contained in a draft constitution [word indistinct] interim government prepared by a 14-member committee.

On the elections, Manggal said they would be held in the refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran and also in the liberated areas within Afghanistan.

Describing the decisions as bold and historic, Manggal said the formation of an interim government would ensure no armed struggle would be waged by the various mujahidin groups following the Soviet withdrawal.

Furthermore, the formation of an interim government would facilitate international recognition and act as an assurance to "friends of the mujahidin that no bloodshed will occur after the Soviet pullout," he added.

Golboddin had also told the gathering that the Soviet Union should withdraw in a limited time frame but did not state the time frame, he said.

Golboddin had however stipulated three steps the Soviets must take — return of forces to their main bases from which they could

begin the withdrawal, return of all those manning the scattered security posts to the main bases and replace the present regime with a new government.

The mujahidin would then be prepared to announce a state of waiting, although not a ceasefire. Otherwise they would continue with the armed struggle.

Golboddin had said that if the Soviet Union was sincere in its announcements of peace then the mujahidin had shown this as "an honourable way of exit from Afghanistan."

Iran, Pakistan Prevent Return of Afghan Refugees
LD130553 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT
13 May 87

[Text] Kabul, May 12, BAKHTAR — The Pakistani and Iranian forces have imposed further restrictions for preventing the return of Afghan refugees who want to come back to their homeland availing of the policy of national reconciliation.

According to available information, a larger number of Pakistani militias and soldiers have been deployed around the camps of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan since the announcement of national reconciliation.

These Pakistani militias and soldiers are hampering the return of the Afghan emigres to their homeland.

Likewise, the Iranian guards have taken under strict control the border posts in the regions of Kerman, Sistan, Baluchistan and Khorasan in an effort to prevent the return of the Afghan emigres to their homeland.

A number of Afghan armed extremist elements opposing the policy of national reconciliation are also involved in these forces. Report says, tens of thousands of soldiers belonging to Peshawar regiment in collusion with the secret police of Pakistan and Afghan extremists have surrounded 255 camps in different parts of the country including [word indistinct] and Peshawar cities hampering the return of refugees to their homeland.

Despite these obstacles, the return of the Afghan refugees to their homeland is gaining momentum by using every available means. For example, in the twenty past days, over 500 families involving 3192 Afghan emigres have returned from Pakistan and Iran and have resumed their normal life.

2 MiG-29 Squadrons Received From USSR

BK111327 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English
4 May 87 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, May 3 (UNI) — India has received two squadrons of MiG-29 fighter aircraft from the Soviet Union giving the Indian Air Force [IAF] a lethal punch.

The Soviets have completed the supply of all the MiG-29s contracted for in a record time of four months.

The MiG-29s were received in batches in semi-knocked down condition and were assembled at the Nasik unit of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and test flown by the Soviet pilots. These aircrafts have now entered squadron service with the IAF.

With its new radar and the missile combination, the MiG-29 is more than a match for the F-16s fighting falcons supplied to Pakistan by the United States, according to Defence experts here.

It was not immediately known if the Soviets have supplied the air-to-air AAM-8 or AAM-10 missiles with the MiG-29s.

A team of eight Indian Air Force fighter pilots and six maintenance engineers underwent intensive conversion training on the MiG-29s in the Soviet Union and they have now trained IAF pilots and technicians.

The IAF has christened the MiG-29 'Baz' (eagle). The aircraft is codenamed Fulcrum by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

The MiG-29 incorporates the latest in avionics and is considered to be one of the most advanced frontline combat fighters in the world.

The MiG-29 is fitted with large pulse doppler lookdown/shoot-down radar giving it day and night all-weather cooperating capabilities against low-flying targets and freedom from out-moded ground control interception techniques.

The MiG-29s sustained rate of turn is said to be among the major improvements over earlier Soviet fighters.

According to western defence experts, the design of the MiG-29 was commensurate with the latest inservice US fighters. The MiG-29 would be a formidable opponent, affecting the balance of power wherever it is deployed, these experts point out.

The contract for the MiG-29 was signed in the middle of 1986 when a high level Indian Defence delegation visited Moscow. The supply of the MiG-29s was originally scheduled to begin in April-May this year but the delivery dates were advanced by about five months as the production of the fighters had picked up in the Soviet Union.

Aftermath of Presidential Rule in Punjab Detailed

60 Paramilitary Units Move In

BK121152 Hong Kong AFP in English 1114 GMT
12 May 87

[Text] New Delhi, May 12 (AFP) — Security force across northern India were alerted Tuesday to counter feared Sikh separatist violence after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi sacked the Punjab Government and took charge of the state, officials said.

Mr. Gandhi ordered the dismissal of the Sikh administration in Punjab and assumed direct control of the state from New Delhi just before midnight Monday following a "breakdown of law and order".

The Press Trust of India (PTI) reported that 60 companies of paramilitary forces had arrived in Punjab since Monday boosting the paramilitary presence to some 350 companies or at least 35,000 men, besides ordinary police and the army.

In a report laid before Parliament Tuesday, Punjab Governor Siddhartha Shankar Ray said since mid-April "a parallel authority working in the state by fundamentalists and the extremists in the Golden Temple and the gurdwaras (temples).

"Terror stalked the land and fear abided in almost every heart with the inevitable result that migration and the consequent communal tension, commenced again," the report said.

Eighteen people were killed in Punjab over the weekend, pushing to close to 300 this year's toll in violence linked to the Sikh militant campaign for Khalistan, a Sikh homeland.

PTI added that 400 people had died violently in the state in 1987, including killings not directly linked to the separatist campaign. Thirty people had been killed so far in May, 115 died in April, 110 in March, 60 in February and 80 in January.

Paramilitary forces had been asked to step up patrols in all sensitive areas of Punjab and check cross-border movements by suspected terrorists, PTI said.

Northern state governments, including in the Union Territory of New Delhi, had been told to boost security to protect life and property.

The report by Mr. Ray, who is now in charge of the day-to-day running of Punjab as the federal government's representative, said the state administration had lost control in large areas of Punjab, particularly almost all rural areas.

Sikhs, who are in a slight majority in Punjab as a whole, are concentrated in rural areas, while Hindus live more in the towns.

Thousands of people could no longer lead normal lives, the report added.

Meanwhile, at a press conference Tuesday in the state capital Chandigarh, Mr. Ray announced that Punjab's tough police

chief Julio Ribeiro had been given another year to tackle the militants.

Mr. Ribeiro had threatened to retire on May 31 as Punjab police director-general unless given a free hand. He accused Sikh politicians of interfering in security measures to the benefit of the militants.

The police chief warned militants he would fight them "bullet for bullet" shortly after his appointment last month.

In New Delhi virtually the entire Indian opposition walked out of Parliament in protest at the imposition of president's rule, which is renewable every six months.

The protest was at the failure of the government to consult the opposition or debate the issue in the house before President Zail Singh's announcement of direct rule.

The midnight announcement brought to an end months of uncertainty in Punjab since the Akali Dal government, elected in September 1985, split into warring moderate and pro-militant factions.

It was the ninth time Punjab has come under president's rule in the past 20 years. Only one Punjab government, that headed by the current Indian President Zail Singh, has completed its term without being dismissed.

The assembly has not been dissolved, but suspended, leading several commentators to say the period of direct rule could be short before a popular government is put back in office.

Akali Dal Slams Government

*BK121600 Hong Kong AFP in English 1544 GMT
12 May 87*

[Text] Chandigarh, India, May 12 (AFP) — The Sikh political party Akali Dal hit out at the federal Government here Tuesday, a day after being thrown out of power in Punjab.

A four-hour meeting of party legislators here adopted a resolution charging the government of Premier Rajiv Gandhi with having been swayed by political compulsions in dismissing the administration of Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala.

The resolution, which observers said signalled a shift in the Akali Dal attitude towards a confrontationalist stance with New Delhi, said next month's election in neighbouring Haryana State had influenced the decision.

Monday's dismissal of the Akali Dal government, which assumed office after state elections in Punjab in September, 1985 was "in violation of the spirit of the Indian Constitution" and influenced by "purely partisan motives of promoting (Mr. Gandhi's) Congress Party's interests in Haryana elections," it said.

Mr. Barnala told a news conference afterwards that there was no legitimate excuse for dismissing his government.

The federal government had charged him with failing to control Sikh separatist violence, but "where in the country is there no violence," he asked.

Mr. Barnala said the federal action was also to "punish the Akali Dal for refusing to agree to a sell-out of Punjab's interests" by compromising on the July 1985 agreement with New Delhi, since known as the Punjab Accord.

That accord signed by Mr. Gandhi and the then Akali Dal Chairman Harchand Singh Longowal ended a campaign of the [Akali] Dal for greater political and religious autonomy for the predominantly Sikh Punjab.

Key provisions of the accord, including the transfer of Chandigarh, now shared as capital by Punjab and neighbouring Hindu-dominated Haryana, exclusively to Punjab, have yet to be implemented.

Tuesday's Akali Dal meeting, attended by all its 47 state legislators said: "The party feels that the centre never allowed a democratic and political solution of the Punjab tangle to be worked out."

"In fact, it worked systematically to weaken the party and the state government's valiant efforts to bring peace in the region".

The [Akali] Dal meeting coincided with a statement from the Punjab unit of Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party which hailed the dismissal of Mr. Barnala as "the right step at the right moment".

It accused some ministerial colleagues of Mr. Barnala's of having links with Sikh separatists.

Lok Sabha Endorses Rule

*BK121634 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
12 May 87*

[Excerpts] The Parliament today approved the proclamation imposing president's rule in Punjab. The Lok Sabha adopted a statutory resolution moved by the home minister for this purpose by a voice vote. In the Rajya Sabha, a similar resolution was adopted with 82 votes in favor and 16 against. Earlier in the morning, the entire opposition barring AIADMK [All India Anna DMK], Muslim League and BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] staged a walkout protesting against the government's action without either consulting the opposition or taking the house into confidence.

Replying to the discussion on the statutory resolution, Mr. Buta Singh assured the house that the government would take severe action against politicians and officials having links or harboring terrorists and secessionists. He said the center had to promulgate president's rule in Punjab as there was a breakdown of law and order and the state administration had failed to put down the growing activities of terrorists and religious fundamentalists. The home minister said that the Barnala government lacked the necessary political will to meet the situation. Mr. Barnala, being

a well-intentioned person, perhaps wanted the situation to improve, but some of his closest cabinet colleagues let him down, Mr Buta Singh said.

The center extended fullest support to the state government for 21 months with the hope that the situation would improve. On Punjab Accord, the home minister denied the opposition charge that the center is not in favor of implementing it. On the contrary, he said, it is the Punjab Government which lacks the necessary political will to implement the accord.

Taking part in the discussion, members expressed the hope that the president's rule would only be a transitory phase. While the opposition members described the government action as politically-motivated, the ruling party members said it was taken in the national interest.

Initiating the discussion, Mr Ayyappu Reddy, Telugu Desam, said that the Punjab problem could not be solved without the cooperation of the people and all parties. He alleged that by dismissing Mr Barnala, the center has removed the last link available for getting the people's cooperation for this purpose. [passage omitted]

The minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, who replied to the discussion in the Rajya Sabha, told the house that the imposition of president's rule was the only alternative left with the center to improve the deteriorating law and order situation in the state. He described as ridiculous the opposition charge that this step was taken with an eye on the forthcoming election in Haryana.

During the discussion, while the opposition members criticized the government for imposing president's rule and attributed it to vested interest in the coming Haryana polls, the ruling party members felt that there was little option, in view of the worsening condition in the state. There was a suggestion that the proposed security zone in the state should be created without further delay. The ruling party members hoped that the president's rule will mark the beginning of a fresh endeavor to put the state back on the path of progress.

The imposition of president's rule in Punjab has evoked mixed reaction. Mr Surjit Singh Barnala has alleged that president's rule has been imposed in Punjab due to political compulsions of the Congress-I with Haryana assembly elections in view. Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh, he denied that any of his ministerial colleagues were in league with the terrorists. Criticizing the center for not implementing the Punjab Accord, Mr Barnala asserted that the Akali Dal stands committed to it. Welcoming the step, the state Congress-I president, Mr Beant Singh, appealed to the people of Punjab to wholeheartedly cooperate with the administration in removing terrorism. The Akali Dal, Longowal group, has described it as unwarranted and undemocratic. The Akali Dal faction of the Master Tara Singh group said the law and order situation in Punjab had completely broken down and the center had no option but to impose president's rule. The two Communist Parties in separate statements felt that the step will weaken the struggle against terrorists. The BJP president, Mr L.K. Advani, and the Janata Party general secretary, Mr Yashwant Singh, hoped that the center will start a dialogue

with the Sikh leaders to find a lasting solution to the Punjab problem. The Lok Dal, Ajit Singh group, general secretary, Mr Satya Prakash Malviya, has criticized the step. [passage omitted]

The security arrangements in Punjab have been further strengthened. Sixty more companies of CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] have been inducted to assist the state authorities in the maintenance of law and order. According to an official spokesman, the police and the paramilitary forces have been strengthened in sensitive areas in the state.

Government Orders 'Crackdown'

BK130318 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
13 May 87

[Text] The Punjab government has ordered the arrest of activists of All India Sikh Students Federation, the United Akali Dal, and Dandami Taksal [Sikh fundamentalist religious school] throughout the state. The director general of police, Mr Ribeiro told our Chandigarh correspondent this morning that the crackdown has been ordered against those who were threatening people and extorting money on the pretext of social reforms. Mr Ribeiro said while lawlessness will be dealt with firmly, instructions have been issued to ensure that law abiding citizens are not harassed.

Meanwhile, 57 additional companies of paramilitary forces have been deployed in various parts of the state to deal with any eventuality. There are already over 250 companies of paramilitary forces to assist the state government's own 35,000 strong police force.

The governor, Mr Sidhartha Shanker Ray, has had a meeting with the state chief secretary and the director general of police in Chandigarh to review the situation in the state. He has asked the district police chiefs to ensure that no innocent person is harassed in any way while dealing with terrorism and violence. Addressing his first news conference after assuming charge of the state administration following president's rule, Mr Ray announced that a cell is being set up under an inspector general of police to look into the complaints of harassment of innocent people. He said the situation will have to be dealt with tremendous firmness and great compassion. He said every efforts must be directed toward providing security to life and property and ensure that everybody is entitled to carry his avocation without any hesitation or fear. The governor said no interference, political or otherwise, will be allowed in the matter of transfers, postings, or employment. He said he will soon be visiting Delhi for discussion with central leaders.

Former Minister Arrested

BK130450 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT
13 May 87

[Excerpt] In Punjab, Mr Prem Singh Chandumajra, cooperation minister in the former Barnala ministry, is among over 100 persons arrested by police since last night. The director general of police, Mr Ribeiro, told our Chandigarh correspondent that Mr Chandumajra was arrested from his Chandigarh residence

this morning. This follows the state government's order to arrest all those person who are threatening the people and extorting money on the pretext of social reforms including activists of All India Sikh Students Federation, the United Akali Dal, and the Damdami Taksal.[Sikh fundamentalist religious school][passage omitted].

Paper Says Singh Not Empowered To Dismiss Gandhi
BK111325 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English
 1 May 87 p 9

[Editorial: "A Mischievous Theory"]

[Text] It must be said in all fairness to the Opposition parties that even at the height of their disenchantment with the Rajiv Gandhi Government most of them have not really upheld the theory that the President has the right to dismiss the Prime Minister. The Janata national executive has not only opposed the idea but also made it clear that it does not want the President to fight the "battle of the Opposition". The only Opposition leader who has struck a discordant note is the Lok Dal leader, Dr Subramaniam Swamy, but even he has only suggested that the President has a duty to "explore an alternative to Mr Rajiv Gandhi within the Congress-I". Meanwhile, it may sound unfair to the President to imply even remotely that he is toying with the idea of dismissing the Government. As head of State, he knows the limits of his constitutional powers. Perhaps the Congress-I leader, Mr Kamalapati Tripathi's recent observations are partly responsible for the current speculation on what the President intends to do in the coming weeks. Nevertheless the stand Mr Tripathi has taken on the President's constitutional powers is unassailable.

The President's powers are clearly spelt out in the Constitution and on no grounds can it be established that he enjoys the right to dismiss the duly elected Government at the Centre. Yes, he can dismiss the Prime Minister if the latter loses his majority in the Lok Sabha and refuses to resign. It is wrong to argue that on the basis of Article 75 the President has the powers to dismiss the Prime Minister. The Article says, among other things, that "the Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister". It also says: "The Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the President." Simply because the President "appoints" the Prime Minister, it does not mean that he can dismiss him as well. Article 75 makes it clear that the Prime Minister and his Council of Ministers are responsible to Parliament. Besides, ours is a parliamentary democracy and the President occupies the same position as the King under the English Constitution. As Mr Tripathi has pointed out, special situations may arise when even after a Prime Minister loses the support of a section of his parliamentary party, he manages to command majority support in the Lok Sabha with the help of other parties. Such a situation arose in 1971 after the split in the Congress party and few had demanded that Mrs Gandhi's government should be dismissed. In short, neither the Constitution nor precedents enable the president to dismiss the Central Government so long as it enjoys the majority in the House. Any argument to the contrary is not only invalid but highly mischievous.

Pakistan, China 'Nuclear Blackmail' Condemned
BK111317 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English
 29 Apr 87 p 9

[Editorial: "NPT Blackmail"]

[Text] Defence Minister K. C. Pant's declaration in Parliament on Monday that the emerging threat from Pakistan's nuclear programme is forcing India to review its options is clear evidence of the mounting external pressure on New Delhi to commit itself to non-proliferation in some form. For quite some time Pakistan, obviously at the behest of the United States, and Washington have tried to sell to India one of four alternatives on the nuclear question. The first is signing the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT), which India has already rejected as being discriminatory. The other three can be aptly described as NPT through the back door, for they demand of India either an acceptance of fullscope safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency, or agree to a nuclear weapons-free zone in South Asia or, lastly, have a treaty with Pakistan renouncing nuclear weapons. The proposals are far less innocent than they appear. Inherent in these alternatives is an assumption of nuclear equality between India and Pakistan. That assumption must be demolished in the first place. Pakistan's single-minded pursuit of nuclear weapons capability in the past many years has done nothing to embarrass its benefactors in Washington. The fact that Pakistan graduated to the level of a frontline State essentially earned for it American military protection, including a nuclear umbrella.

The tendency to bypass this fact is the biggest flaw in the theory of Indo-Pak nuclear parity. While Pakistan enjoys the assurance of a nuclear deterrence by the U.S., India has no defence against an established nuclear power of the region, China. The security environment for India has become much worse because of what Mr Pant described as the U.S.-Pakistan-China axis. It was in this context that the Defence Minister talked about reviewing India's nuclear options, and assured the nation that its response to the emerging threat from Pakistan would be adequate to its perception of the threat. Many may interpret this as indicating India's desire to acquire a nuclear deterrence capability to meet the Pakistani threat. It is obvious that India will not be allowed easily to acquire that capability, especially as the United States and the Soviet Union share a large measure of agreement on the issue of nuclear non-proliferation. The intention to deny India a credible status in the entire realm of nuclear weapons and a delivery system was also indicated at the recent seven-power agreement on restricting the spread of missiles technology. The pressure will multiply, and may soon begin to work even in the economic field. But it would be disastrous for India to give in to what amounts to nuclear blackmail.

Minister Warns Sri Lanka Against 'Foreign Forces'
BK121627 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
 12 May 87

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, has called upon the Sri Lankan Government to give serious consideration to the 19 December proposals as they are the best hope for a peaceful settlement of the ethnic issue in that country.

Replying to a special discussion on the situation in Sri Lanka initiated by Mr Braja Mohan Mohanty, Congress-I, in the Lok Sabha today, the minister said if the Government of Sri Lanka has any other proposals to offer, India is prepared to consider them. He called upon the Sri Lankan leaders to create a climate conducive for a negotiated settlement of the ethnic problem. Sri Lanka must lift its economic blockade and refrain from its military activities. He said India is highly concerned over the developments in Sri Lanka, particularly the denial of human rights to the Tamil minorities and atrocities being committed on them. He cautioned the Sri Lankan Government not to encourage the foreign forces in the island to intervene as their activities will lead to serious consequences.

During the discussion, members from both sides urged the government to review its policy toward Sri Lanka without closing its options. They also wanted the government to exercise maximum bilateral and multilateral pressures to end the crisis.

Bangladesh Urged To Repatriate Chakmas
BK111323 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English
 30 Apr 87 p 9

[Editorial: "Repatriation of Chakmas"]

[Text] An Indo-Bangladesh agreement on the repatriation of the Chakma refugees is bound to elude the two countries if the Ershad government refuses to adopt a humanitarian approach. It is, therefore, not surprising that the outcome of the foreign secretaries' meeting in Dhaka is far from encouraging. The two sides could not evolve any modalities or fix any tentative date for the repatriation of the refugees. The future of the negotiations depends upon whether or not Dhaka will accept the Indian Foreign Secretary, Mr K. P. S. Menon's suggestion that Bangladesh district officials and the tribal leaders should visit refugee camps in India and persuade the refugees to return home. The main question is whether the Bangladesh Government will create conditions which are conducive to the Chakmas' return to the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The atrocities against the Chakmas go on unabated. By settling Bengali Muslims in the Hill Tracts, the Ershad government has made it extremely difficult for the Chakmas to remain there. The killings and torture of the tribals by the Bangladesh security forces are frequent.

Dhaka should realise that India has nothing to gain by keeping a large number of refugees, particularly in a small State like Tripura. The Tripura Chief Minister, Mr Nripen Chakroborty, said that "we cannot shoot them down on the border since no one leaves his hearth and home unless driven to do so." It is on purely humanitarian grounds that they have been given shelter. About 49,000 Chakmas are estimated to be in Tripura and the burden which the State Government is bearing on that score is heavy. Though the Bangladesh Government has agreed to take the refugees back, it has done precious little to fulfil its assurance.

Though there is a dispute over the number of refugees in Tripura, that by itself creates no problem. Mr K. P. S. Menon has made it clear that the impression that the two countries differ on the figure is wrong. He has pointed out that Bangladesh's contention that so far 27,000 persons have been identified means that it is willing to verify the rest. However, Dhaka's stand that India is not keen on the repatriation process is untenable. A State like Tripura which is facing the insurgency problem created by the Tribal national Volunteers is only too anxious to get rid of refugees. Nor is there any basis for the allegation that India is helping the Shanti Bahini to create problems for Bangladesh. Why can't Dhaka realise that the Chakma refugees are its creation and it has a responsibility towards them?

Former UK Aircraft Carrier Handed Over 12 May
BK120920 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
 12 May 87

[Text] The second aircraft carrier *Ins Virat* was handed over to India at a special ceremony in Britain today. The British-built ship, formerly known as *HMS Hermes*, saw action in the Falklands war as the flag ship. The Indian high commissioner, Dr P.C. Alexander, took charge of the ship on behalf of the Indian Navy at the Royal Naval Base at (Davenport). The 28,700-ton aircraft carrier is equipped with missiles and has a speed of 28 knots. Over 1,350 men and officers can be accommodated on the ship.

Afghan Bombings, Airspace Violations Protested
BK121646 Karachi Domestic Service in English
 1600 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with the Kabul regime over the violations of Pakistan's airspace by its aircraft twice early this month. Eight Afghan aircraft penetrated into Pakistan's airspace on the 4th of this month and dropped a few bombs and rockets in the area of Ghulam Khan Kil in North Waziristan Agency, killing four persons and causing injury to one. Seven other Afghan aircraft had penetrated into Pakistan's airspace a day earlier and dropped a few bombs in the Aadu area of Chitral District, causing injuries to five persons.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon and strong protests were handed over to him on these unprovoked attacks.

AWACS Lease 'Surprise Change of Position'
BK111658 Islamabad The Muslim in English
 1 May 87 p 4

[Editorial: "AWACS: A change of position?"]

[Text] In a sudden and surprise change of position, the Pakistan government has apparently decided to request the United States to lease AWACS, thereby discarding the earlier proposal of seeking their purchase. In what appears an unusual move, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has sent a letter to President Reagan through the good offices of a reputedly hawkish American senator who recently visited the region. This decision implies a qualitative shift in the nature of the growing Pakistan-American military relationship in that it may involve the physical presence of American military personnel on Pakistani territory since it appears that U.S. service men will be manning the leased AWACS. This will be the first such physical presence of American combat personnel on Pakistani territory since the closure of the Badaber military base in 1969. The earlier presence was symbolised by the infamous U2 incident in 1962.

This move of the government raises more questions than it answers. In fact, it is all the more surprising since an elected government is supposed to be more aware of popular sensibility on such an issue than one which is not elected. Additionally, it would have been more appropriate given that Parliament debated foreign policy only recently that such a sensitive matter and major policy shift had been openly deliberated in the House so that the entire nation was taken into confidence before such a move. It also raises a more fundamental issue. A popular mandate being a pre-requisite for major policy decisions, both in

foreign and domestic policy, it will be pertinent to ask the Prime Minister why such a mandate was not sought in this important case. Apart from these domestic imperatives, the government's inexplicable decision will have serious foreign policy repercussions. It will be seen, with justification as a move to detract Pakistan from a political settlement in Afghanistan. While moves to strengthen Pakistan's air defence capability have sufficient validity, the danger lurks of being sucked into a much larger exercise on the Western front. Are we not allowing ourselves to be wittingly caught in a nutcracker situation?

While the Americans have no aversion to fighting to the last Afghan, there will be concern among Pakistanis that our country is being turned into a theatre of war. Discerning political observers will recall 1964 when the so-called Gulf of Tonkin "incident" was used by President Johnson to hoodwink the American Congress into supporting America's war against Vietnam. Hopefully, 23 years later, our policy makers will not allow themselves to be confused by hawks in Washington. Islamabad should proceed with due caution and care and with the ability to distinguish between our genuine defence needs and the interests of a distant ally. Nor should all this deflect attention away from the Eastern front where the threat posed by Operation Brasstacks has only just begun to recede.

Afghan Arms Dealer Arrested, Weapons Recovered
BK111546 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
 11 May 87

[Text] An active Afghan arms dealer has been arrested at his house on the super highway, and some Kalashnikov rifles, Sten guns, and cartridges have been recovered. The person is believed to be a member of the KHAD [Afghan Information Service]. He told the investigators that he had come from Afghanistan recently and brought arms for sale. Further investigations are in progress, the *Associated Press of Pakistan* reported.

Bangladesh Envoy Meets Junejo, Renews Invitation
BK111127 Karachi Domestic Service in English
 1100 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] The Bangladesh ambassador to Pakistan, Chowdhury Mohammad Shafi Sami, called on the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, in Rawalpindi this morning. He delivered a letter from President Hussain Mohammad Ershad to the prime minister renewing the invitation to him to visit Bangladesh. The prime minister indicated that he would avail an early opportunity to visit Bangladesh. The ambassador also conveyed greetings from the prime minister, Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, to Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, which were warmly reciprocated.

Syria's Al-Shar' Meets Prime Minister Musavi*LD121144 Tehran IRNA in English 1125 GMT 12 May 87*

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA — Visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi here Tuesday and exchanged views on the strengthening of mutual ties as well as the Middle East situation.

The Syrian foreign minister who arrived here Tuesday morning reiterated the unchanged stance of his country towards the Middle East issues including the Zionist regime.

Al-Shar' said that the rights of Palestinians and the recovery of occupied lands is a fundamental principle of Syrian policy. He stressed that his country will accept no compromise in this respect.

Referring to the friendly relations between Iran and Syria he emphasized on the joint struggle of the two Muslim nations against Zionism and Arab reactionaries.

Prime Minister Musavi [words indistinct] of the Islamic Republic for the Syrian people's struggle against the Zionist regime, called for deepening of mutual relations between the two countries as a base for future stronger relations. He also stressed the declared and unchanged stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards the issues of the Middle East and the Persian Gulf.

Meets Velayati, Khamene'i*LD121607 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 May 87*

[Text] Mr Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Syria, arrived in Tehran this morning and was welcomed by Mr Velayati, the Foreign Affairs Minister. After his arrival, Mr Faruq al-Shar' gave an interview to our correspondent. He said that the object of his trip was to deliver a written message from Mr Hafiz al-Asad, the president of Syria, to Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, our country's president. He added: During this trip we will hold talks and exchange views with the Iranian authorities on bilateral relations and the situation in the region.

The Syrian foreign minister met with President Khamene'i this morning. According to a Central News Unit report, in the course of this meeting, which was also attended by foreign minister Velayati and the two countries' diplomatic representatives, Mr Faruq al-Shar' delivered a friendly message from President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria and presented a detailed report to Mr Khamene'i on the recent visit of the Syrian president to the USSR. Referring to the viewpoints of Mr Hafiz al-Asad on the issues of the region and the two countries' bilateral relations, Mr Faruq al-Shar' said that the Arab Republic of Syria will always stress its basic stance about mutual relations. He added: Mr Hafiz al-Asad instructed me to inform your Excellency that despite all the efforts undertaken in Baghdad — and you are aware of these efforts, as well — Syria will stand beside the Islamic revolution of Iran and the efforts of our enemies will not have any effect on the course of the friendly and fraternal

relations of the two progressive and Muslim states of Iran and Syria.

Mr Khamene'i, while expressing gratitude for the warm and friendly message of Mr Hafiz al-Asad, stressed the need for further expansion of the two countries' relations and said that reciprocal relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria will not only serve the interests of the two Muslim and progressive states of Iran and Syria, but also will serve the common interests and aspirations of the two nations.

Mr Khamene'i added that the reactionary countries of the region, the Zionists, and [words indistinct] are frightened of the close cooperation between the two progressive, combative, and anti-Zionist states of Iran and Syria. However, fortunately today, our relations with Syria are strong in every field.

While expressing gratitude for the support given by the Syrian government toward the struggle of the Lebanese Muslims and believers, the president went on: Under the present circumstances [words indistinct], today's struggle of the Lebanese believers is truly admirable and we are dutybound to assist the selfless combatants who are seriously fighting against the regime occupying Jerusalem.

Referring to the approaching International Jerusalem Day, Mr Khamene'i said that there is no doubt that one of the most significant common points between us and our Syrian brothers is the issue of Palestine and holy Jerusalem. Syria's steadfastness in its anti-Zionist stance is endorsed by the Islamic Republic of Iran. We condemn the conspiracy aimed at extending the Camp David Accords, which is exerting pressure from every direction today and, in fact, Syria bears the greater share of this pressure.

Concluding his remarks, Mr Khamene'i expressed the hope that the International Jerusalem Day will become a symbol for the Muslim nations to demonstrate their hatred of Israel [words indistinct]. He added that this is the best backing for the progressive governments, enabling them to stand against Israel.

Talks With Hashemi-Rafsanjani*LD121724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 May 87*

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today met with Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The Syrian Foreign Minister referred to certain points in connection with the visit of Hafiz al-Asad to the Soviet Union, and informed the Iranian officials about the outcome of that visit. He then described Syria's positions concerning the recent Palestinian moves, especially the recent session in Algeria, and emphasized Syria's principled stand.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked Faruq al-Shar' for visiting Iran and described the stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the issues of the region including the Iran-Iraq war. He said: Our most important problem with Russia is its support for Iraq. We are clear about the future of Iraq. We have no aim but the complete sovereignty of the Iraqi nation. We hope that after Saddam — with your assistance — we will be able to bring about

conditions in the region so that America can have no place in the region.

The notion that we want to commit aggression against other nations is false. However, we should do something to cleanse the region of the filthy existence of imperialism. The duplicitous figure ruling Iraq is neither to be trusted by the Americans nor by the Soviets. No principles govern affairs in Iraq, even in connection with the issues of the Arabs and Israel. The downfall of Saddam will resolve your problems and those of the Lebanese people. It is for the same reason that the Palestinians are at the moment divided. If we, you, Iraq, and Lebanon are together, the issue of Palestine will be solved.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his thanks for Syria's recent stand with regard to Lebanese Muslims.

Departs, Says Visit 'Positive'

*LD121827 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 12 May 87*

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who came to our country to deliver a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and to meet with high-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, left Tehran this afternoon. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Velayati.

In an interview with our correspondent before his departure from Tehran, Faruq al-Shar' said that this visit was within the framework of existing consultations between the high-ranking officials of the two countries. It was a successful and positive visit and we achieved the expected results.

Foreign Minister Velayati was interviewed by our correspondent about the outcome of the visit. Here is the interview:

[Begin recording][Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: During his visit, His Excellency Mr Faruq al-Shar', the honorable foreign minister of friendly and fraternal Syria, delivered a message from His Excellency Mr Hafiz al-Asad to His Excellency Khamene'i, the honorable president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. His Excellency Mr Faruq al-Shar' also met with His Excellency the prime minister. He also talked with me.

Considering that Iran and Syria share common areas of interest, especially on issues of the region, occasional meetings and exchanges of delegations are necessary. In this way, we can discuss and finally harmonize the views of the two countries. We discussed the recent Palestinian developments and the issues concerning the war imposed by Iraq upon Iran, as well our relations with Syria and the cooperation between the two countries on the international scene, the Islamic world and the Non-aligned Movement. As in the past, we shared common opinions on many points. We hope that this expanding trend in relations between the two countries will continue in the future and that we will be able to have greater cooperation in various fields.

[Announcer] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Communique, Reports Detail War Situation

Communique No 2834

LD121536 Tehran IRNA in English 1523 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA — Two Iraqi vessels trying to leave the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway in the northern tip of the Persian Gulf early today, sustained damage and were forced to flee when shelled by coastal artillery fire of Iranian naval forces.

Announcing the above here Tuesday, the 2834th Joint Staff communique said that at least 90 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy bunkers and observation posts destroyed in the western fronts Monday when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian gendarmerie forces continued their defensive operations in parts of southern and western fronts yesterday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying seven gun emplacements of theirs.

Exchange of artillery fire continued throughout the fronts Monday raging somewhat more heavily in Sardasht, Bubiyan [name as received] and Zeydi where Iraqi forces sustained several casualties and parts of their positions were set ablaze. Enemy fire was also silenced in Sardasht.

In the Northwestern fronts Monday, Muslim forces of Iran carried out successful intelligence-gathering missions, and Iranian patrol convoys seized some anti-chemical weapons gear.

Several Iraqi patrol units trying to infiltrate Iranian positions in Helaleh, Nahr-e-anbar and Sayyid Sadiq, southern fronts, yesterday were forced to flee by artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants.

Heavy Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi engineering units trying to dig trenches east of Basra, southern fronts, yesterday inflicted heavy damage on at least 10 enemy engineering vehicles.

Iraqi forces suffered heavy losses in men and equipment and movement of enemy vehicle columns was checked in Chazabeh Monday when shelled by Iranian forces.

Iraqi warplanes violated the airspace of Sardasht, northwestern fronts, Sunday but were forced to flee each time by Iranian anti-aircraft fire, the communique concluded.

Iraqi Mojahedin Attack Town

*LD121751 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 12 May 87*

[Text] The Joint Staff of the three services of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announced that in the past few days Iraqi Mojahedin inflicted heavy losses on the Zionist enemy when they fired on the important Iraqi town of (Zafari) from two sides with medium and heavy weapons fire. The Istikhbarat center, the security organization management center, a military garrison, the town's police center, and another Zionist enemy base in the town suffered substantial damage and losses. The mojahedin

were commanded by the Sayyid al-Shuhada Headquarters in cooperation with the Peshmerga of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Iraqi Jets Hit Esfahan, Tabriz

LD131022 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA — Two industrial units in Esfahan and Tabriz, central and northwestern Iran, were hit by Iraqi jet fighters Wednesday morning. The renewal of air raids by the Ba'thist regime, caused damage to the units and several people were injured.

Iraqi Commando Battalion Smashed

LD131029 Tehran IRNA in English 1012 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA — An Iraqi commando battalion was totally smashed during a patrol-combat operations of the Ground Forces of the Iranian Army, north of Fakeh, southern fronts, Wednesday morning.

The Iranian forces in a blitz attack smashed enemy forces stationed north of Fakeh destroying the commando battalion of Brigade 51 of the First Mechanised Corps.

In this operation four Iraqis were taken captive three of whom are officers. The Iranian forces also seized a large quantity of Iraqi munitions.

Navy Commander on Persian Gulf Security

LD130938 Tehran IRNA in English 0919 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA — Navy Commander Commodore Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan stressed here Tuesday that security of the Persian Gulf region should be safeguarded only by the littoral states.

He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran as the paramount power in the region will not let the Persian Gulf security be endangered by tension creating adventures of the imperialist powers.

The navy commander also stressed that if Iran's vital and sensitive resources and interests in the region were threatened, the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf would not be secure for any other countries.

Commodore Malekzadegan, speaking to a large group of people at a Tehran mosque said that Iran's naval fleet had formed a quarantine belt by stationing in three strategic points in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea and, was decisively intercepting ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz, regardless of the flag they were flying or their nationality.

He referred to the strategic importance of the Persian Gulf region and said that international arrogance was constantly looking for an opportunity to achieve its vicious political objectives in this region.

Further referring to the interception of ships by Iranian naval vessels, the navy commander said that in the past year consignments of 35 Iraq-bound ships were confiscated and unloaded at Iranian ports. At present, he added, Iran's naval war units by stationing 600 kms deep in the eastern part of the Oman Sea, have undertaken the responsibility of defending the sea borders of Islamic Iran.

Stressing that the plotters would be given a sound answer in the sea itself, Commodore Malekzadegan announced that missile units of the naval forces, stationed in sensitive and strategic points in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, were ready to confront the plotters in the region upon orders of the commander-in-chief of the armed forces (Imam Khomeyni).

Majlis Approves 24 Articles of Armed Forces Bill

LD130114 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] In an open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly on Tuesday [12 May], a discussion of the legal bill on the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces continued in its second reading and 24 more articles of it were approved.

According to one of these articles, the Supreme Defense Council, as the supreme military adviser to the leader, has the following duties: to propose the declaration of war or peace, national mobilization, and the appointment of the commanders of the three armed forces to the commander in chief; to define the system of national armament and the general policies regarding the production or purchase of weapons, to exercise overall supervision of this area, and to provide necessary coordination between the Defense and Revolutionary Guards Corps Ministries in foreign purchases and in military industries; to define the cases of and methods for cooperation and to provide necessary coordination among the Army, the Guards Corps, and the security forces in military affairs, providing coordination between the Armed Forces and the government and exercising overall supervision of these activities; and to guide and coordinate research activities and industrial-military research by the Defense and Revolutionary Guards Corps Ministries and their affiliated organizations with research centers around the country.

According to our correspondent's report, among other articles of the bill discussed in the open Majlis session on Tuesday, the regulations concerning the general conditions of recruitment and grading were approved by the deputies.

UN Representative on Court Verdict, Murphy Trip

NC130728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] In an exclusive interview with the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent in London, Mr Raja'i-Khorasani, the Islamic Republic of Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations, accused the U.S. Government of procrastinating in implementing the decisions of the International Court of Justice in the Hague. He said this indicates the United States has no intention of abiding by the orders of

international organizations and is persistent in its hostility against the Islamic Revolution and the Iranian people.

Mr Raja'i-Khorasani was speaking on the recent Court decision stipulating that the United States should reimburse \$450 million of the Iranian people's frozen assets in that country and added: The U.S. propagandistic clamor alleging that such a payment would be interpreted as a relaxation of its stance regarding Iran's demands is baseless. The repayment has been ordered by the Court in the Hague and the United States should abide by it.

He said: The verdict recently announced by the Court had been delivered a year ago, but the United States resorted to various tactics to stall its implementation; but it is now obliged to repay. He continued: The U.S. intentions regarding our people and the Islamic Republic should not be assessed according to the method of implementing the Algiers accord or the Court decision; rather, it should be viewed in the context of the reasons for U.S. State Department Assistant Secretary Richard Murphy's visit to Baghdad. Mr Raja'i-Khorasani then referred to Murphy's recent utterances, and said: The United States is trying with all means to thwart our victory in the war. When it

announces that the Iran-Iraq war must not have any victor or winner, everyone knows it is not referring to Iraq because there is no chance that Iraq will win the war. The United States is alluding to Iran, because we have succeeded in liberating our occupied lands from the Iraqi regime's usurpation and in conquering strategic and important Iraqi positions. We now await the aggressive Saddam regime's downfall so that the Iraqi people may determine their own future.

Deputy Prime Minister Goes to Venezuela, Argentina

NC090530 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian

0430 GMT 9 May 87

[Text] Mr Mo'ayyeri, the prime minister's political deputy, left for Venezuela and Argentina this morning at the head of a political delegation.

Mr Mo'ayyeri is carrying written messages from Prime Minister Musavi to the presidents of Venezuela and Argentina, in which the needs to strengthen existing good relations and to cooperate in international organizations and gatherings are stressed.